Gonstruction Methods

FEBRUARY 1947

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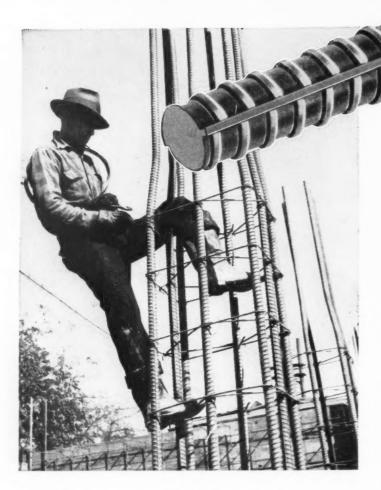
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FEBRUARY,

Volume 29

1947





LABOR. MATERIALS AND SAFETY were prominent topics discussed at the Associated General Contractors meeting in Chicago last month. Contractors are apprehensive of future skilled labor supply unless the apprenticeship programs are greatly enlarged. Reports indicate several unions still short-sightedly resist apprentice training. Increased interest in safety will help conserve what manpower is available.

THIS ISSUE is largely devoted to highways to emphasize the importance of road building in this country and to review the latest developments in construction procedure. Last year road construction and maintenance on state highways alone topped a billion dollars; this year the figures are estimated at 1.4 billions. This is big business that, with streets and secondary roads added, promises to keep the highway contrac-

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PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT of the AGC-AFL pact to form joint contractor-labor committees to handle labor disputes in heavy, highway and building construction is welcome news. The plan will get an early workout, for the AFL carpenters are claiming handling of all lumber from the time it reaches the job, including form stripping. Hereto-fore, except for actual erection of lumber, handling and stripping has been done by AFL laborers. Despite the fact that local unions can supply but a small part of current demand for carpenters, the carpenters are apparently determined to whittle down the power of the laborers, the largest of all AFL Building Trade groups.

FRANK CREEDON, new Housing Expediter, told the AGC convention that "there is no answer to the housing problem except housing," and he hopes to see a million units started this year. He is stressing rental apartments, and has raised the former maximum of \$80 shelter rent to an average of \$80, with small allowances for extras, which should stimulate apartment building. Materials still remain the key to housing. but the supply is rapidly improving.

A CONTRACTOR MORTALITY rate of 45 percent since 1939 was cited by Public Roads Commissioner Thomas H. Mac-Donald at the AGC meeting. He said that 5,614 contractors were at work on federal aid projects during 1935-40, but only 3.057 took work during 1940-46. Some 350 new contractors showed up on the low-bid lists in 1946, and while some of the old firms are returning to road building, the Commissioner is worried over the shortage of contractors.

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ACCOUNTING FOR CONTRACTORS

SIXTH OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES-p. 120

McGRAW-HILL PUBLISHING COMPANY, ING. 338 WEST 42d STREET NEW YORK (18) N Y.

JAMES H. McGRAW, Founder and Honorary Chairman

Editorial and Publishing Offices: 330 West 42nd St., New York (18); 520 North Michigan Ave., Chicago (1); 68 Post St., San Francisco (4); 738-9 Oliver Bldg., Pittsburgh; Aldwych House, London, W. C. 2, England. Branch Offices: Washington; Philadelphia; Cleveland; Detroit; St. Louis; Boston; Los Angeles: Atlanta, Ga.

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CONSTRUCTION METHODS, February, 1947. Volume 29, Number 2. Published monthly, price 25c a copy. Return Postage Guaranteed. Allow at least ten days for change of address. All communications about subscriptions should be addressed to the Director of Circulation, 330 West 42nd Street, New York (18), N. Y. Subscription rates—United States and possessions, \$2.00 a year, \$3.00 for two years, \$4.00 for three years. Canada, \$3.00 a year, \$5.00 for two years, \$12.00 for three years. Pan American countries \$5.00 for one year, \$10.00 for two years, \$12.00 for three years. All other countries, \$15.00 a year, \$30.00 for three years. Please indicate position and company connection on all subscription orders. Entered (or reentered) as second class matter December 16, 1936, at the Post Office of New York, N. Y., U. S. A., under the act of March 3rd 1879. Printed in U. S. A. Cable address: "McGrawhill, New York." Member of A. B. P. Member of A. B. C. Contents copyrighted 1947 by McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Inc., 330 West 42nd Street, New York (18), N. Y.—All rights reserved.

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We were behind the 8-ball until.

We were going crazy on this big housing project. A group of old buildings had been razed, and it was our job to get the debris out of there but fast! Hard as we worked, we just couldn't seem to stay on schedule.

I'd probably be a gibbering idiot if our Oliver "Cletrac" dealer hadn't happened to drive out. "Why not put Sargent OVERHEADS on those Cletracs of yours?" he grinned. "Then you can back up to that mess, get a load, and pull straight up to your truck, without turning, and dump the load. You'll save enough time to catch up to schedule. I've got a few OVERHEADS in my place now. Send in your tractors, and my boys will mount them tonight."

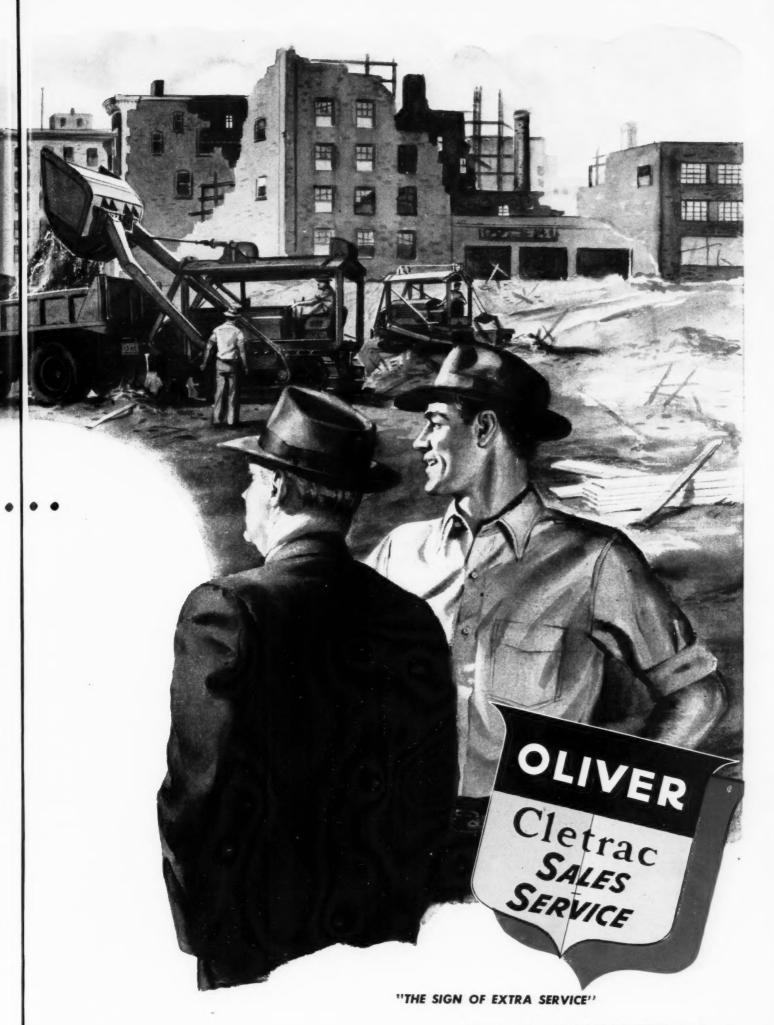
Well to cut the story short, that's just what I did, and we not only caught up to schedule, we beat it! That quick service certainly got us out from behind the eight-ball. The Oliver "Cletrac" dealer is a good guy to know.

Cletrac

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"And the next time we have a letting, don't hire a tobacco auctioneer."



"I don't think road pavers should be allowed to bid on roofing jobs."







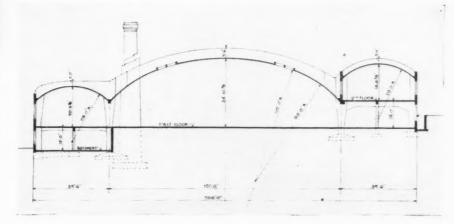
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*Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

New York City Fire Dept. Repair Shop, Long Island City. City of New York, Department of Public Works; Architects: A. G. Lorimer, former Chief; A. J. Daidone, present Acting Chief, Bureau of Architecture. Engineers, Roberts & Schaefer Co., Chicago. Ready-Mix Concrete, Central Concrete, Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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 A fleet of 20 Bottom-Dump and 26 Rear-Dump Euclids is moving earth and rock for construction of the world's highest earth fill structure - Anderson Ranch Dam near Boise, Idaho. Now nearing completion, this combination flood control, irrigation and power dam will be 456 feet high and will contain more than 9,000,000 cu. yds. of earth and rock. Sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, it is being built by Morrison-Shea-Twaits-Winston under the supervision of V. A. Roberts, project manager for the contractors.

Records from all types of mining and construction jobs are evidence of Bottom-Dump and Rear-Dump Euclid efficiency and long life on short and long hauls. Leading contractors prefer Euclids because of their speed in hauling and dumping, and for their versatility and profitable performance. Your Euclid distributor or representative will be glad to discuss your present or future hauling equipment The EUCLID ROAD MACHINERY Co. requirements and provide helpful information.

TCP: Rear-Dump Euclide place 15ton loads of earth and rock on the fill.

CENTER: Bottom-Dump Englid being loaded by a 5-yd. shovel with



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5	miles	202	3.5€
10	"	115	3.1€
15	**	81	2.9€
50	"	27	2.6€

The figures are based on a 10-hour day, an average speed of 20 m.p.h., payloads of 27,000 pounds, 10 minutes loading and dumping time per trip, and a total daily cost of \$35.00 per Wagon, covering fuel, lubricants, driver's wage (average), reserves for depreciation, repair parts and labor, tire wear over abrasive concrete roads, insurance, social security, and miscellaneous expense.

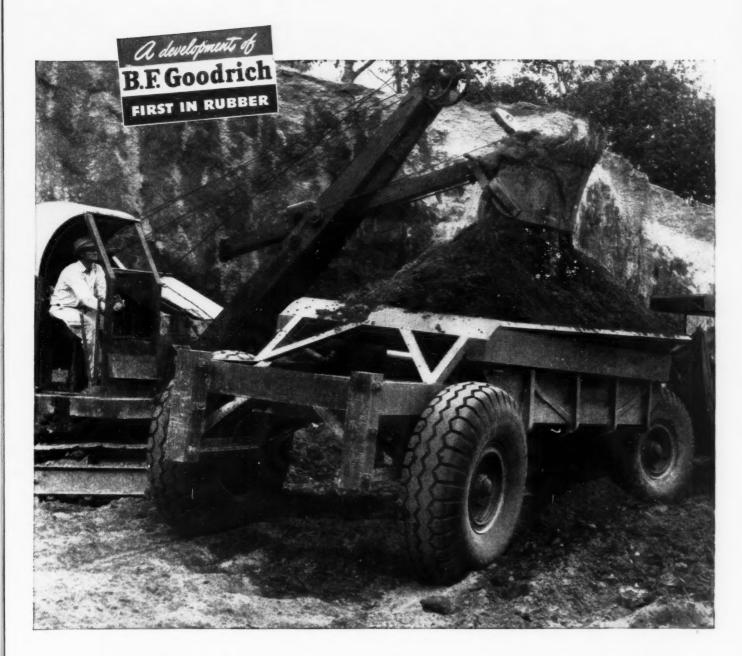
ways without exceeding the 18,000-pound axle-loading limit set by most states.

With all-round performance like this available, why make or carry a double investment in hauling equipment? Let a single investment in MISSISSIPPI WAGONS put you in a position to handle both construction and long-haul jobs . . . at costs that will enable you to meet and beat tough competition in the big days ahead.

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Earth Mover rolls easily—resists sideslip Sure footing in mud, sand, loose dirt

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area and give maximum possible flotation.

Note, too, there are no "humps" in the tread design. The flat, continuous running ribs allow unusually easy rolling. Less power is used to move loads through sand, mud, or deep, loose dirt. The heavy curb strips along the sidewall protect the Earth Mover against scuffing. And those sharp angles around the tread surface give positive protection against treacherous sideslipping.

The Earth Mover is specially designed "inside", too. The tread rubber is compounded to give long, even wear. Four to six breakers—layers of rubbercoated nylon cord—give extra bruise

resistance, extra protection against breaks, ply separation, and blow-outs.

Users of the Earth Mover—and of other B. F. Goodrich tires designed to meet special needs—report longer tire wear, time savings, and lowered repair bills. You, too, can make savings with the B. F. Goodrich Tires that suit your needs. See the B. F. Goodrich dealer or write us direct. The B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, O.

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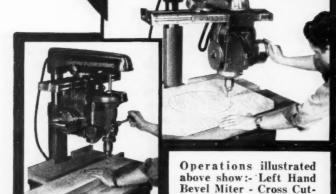
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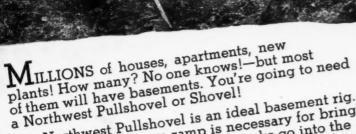


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—And the Pullshovel is quickly convertible to a standard Shovel, Crane or Dragline so your money isn't tied up in a one-purpose machine.

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Thus, the earnestness the manufacturer has given to years of research and development — of product improvement and still better product performance—of efficient manufacture and unusual customer service . . . seems to come back to haunt him.

It is the embarrassment of success.

In becoming the world's leading manufacturer of Diesel engines, track-type tractors and motor graders, "Caterpillar" found many buyers forming a waiting line during the years when all products went into war use. To that waiting line were added many more whose favor was won by the illustrious war performance of these machines.

Thus, despite the fact that "Caterpillar" production is at a high point, demand is still outrunning supply. To eatch up—and also to provide an extra margin of facilities for future needs—production is being increased as rapidly as possible by an expansion program that is adding 50 per cent more plant.

"Caterpillar" is deeply conscious of the problems of the many users who prefer and patiently wait for "Caterpillar" products. "Caterpillar" thanks every customer for such patience in awaiting his turn on deliveries. You can be sure that "Caterpillar" effort is the human utmost. It is live, resourceful—determined that, even in the face of material shortages and disturbed economic conditions, there shall be no unnecessary delays.

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